Environmental approval to thermal power projects of Maharashtra

2455.SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIROMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and particulars of thermal power projects submitted by the Maharashtra Government pending with the Ministry, including those at Dhopawae 2x800 MW and Koradi 3x600 MW;

(b) the reasons for the delay in approving the proposals; and

(c) by when the proposals would be finally disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Two thermal power projects, namely, 2x800 MW thermal power plant at Dhopawae, and 3x660 MW expansion proposal at Koradi thermal power station have been received for grant of Environment Clearance.

(b) and (c) The proposal for Dhopawae thermal power plant was placed before the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) in its meetings held on 15.10.2007 & 10.02.2009 and the committee asked for certain additional information/clarifications. As the requisite information was not received, the proposal has been delisted on 22.6.2009 and will be reconsidered by the EAC after the receipt of required information. The proposal for Koradi thermal power plant has been received recently on 15.6.2009 and will be placed before the EAC for its consideration in the meeting to be held in August, 2009.

Employment to forest dwellers

2456.SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been evolved by the Ministry for giving employment to forest dwellers under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of States implementing the scheme with details of mandays generated and amount of wages paid by those States during 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No Sir. However, Ministry of Environment & Forests and Ministry of Rural Development have jointly issued convergence guidelines between National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for afforestation and related activities. 18 districts have been identified for piloting convergence initiatives.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.